

EMPOWER: WOMEN FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT SOCIETIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Photo: UN Women/Pairach Homtong

BACKGROUND

The impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters are unequally felt across Asia and the Pacific. Women and marginalized groups have less access to information, resources, finance and technologies, leaving them with greater challenges in coping and rebuilding after a crisis.

In 2018, UN Women and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) initiated the [EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies Programme \(EmPower\)](#) with support from the Government of Sweden to accelerate gender-responsive and human rights-based climate actions in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Viet Nam and in the wider Asia-Pacific region.

As the programme enters its second phase in 2023, it has expanded to include Indonesia and the Philippines with support from the Governments of Germany, New Zealand, Sweden and Switzerland.

EmPower will continue to mobilize investment for renewable energy entrepreneurship and skills development for women and marginalized groups, promote their leadership to drive the just energy transition as well as spark commitments to accelerate gender-responsive climate policies and actions.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Programme Title: EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies (Phase II)

Responsible Agencies:
UN Women and UN Environment Programme

Duration: 5 Years
(January 2023 – December 2027)

Geographical Coverage:
Asia-Pacific region with a focus on the Philippines



STATE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PHILIPPINES



The Global Climate Risk Index ranks the Philippines as the **4th most affected** by extreme weather events such as floods, cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis and landslides.



Mean temperatures in all areas in the Philippines are expected to rise by **1.8C to 2.2C in 2050**.



The Philippines is particularly prone to cyclones due to its location in the Northwestern Pacific Basin, with the country experiencing **an average of 20 cyclones per year**.



The impacts of climate change are unequally felt across the Philippines. **The most vulnerable communities** are at risk of injuries, displacement, food and water insecurity and loss of livelihoods, among others.



Women, in particular, experience greater challenges in coping and rebuilding after a crisis due to the **lack of access to information, resources, finance and technologies**.

Building on the first phase of EmPower, UNEP and UN Women are extending their efforts to include the Philippines from 2023.

Phase II is leveraging a variety of tools, methodologies, and data to implement existing plans and policies for gender-responsive, human rights-based climate action. The programme is expanding the scope for women and other marginalized and gender-diverse groups to shape decisions and build resilience, including through access to finance, technology and renewable energy as a driver of better livelihoods.

For this, further support is needed to unlock finance for women to build climate-resilient livelihoods, and to bring women's leadership to the forefront of climate action and the just energy transition.



PROGRAMME STRATEGY – PHASE II

Impact: People in Asia-Pacific experience greater gender equality and the full enjoyment of their rights, including equal access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, reducing their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

Outcome I: Asia-Pacific actors increase action on gender-responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Activities:

- Provide technical support to the implementation and monitoring of key climate change and disaster-related policies and plan of action.
- Strengthen the capacity and knowledge of relevant stakeholders to promote gender-responsive climate action.
- Raise awareness and undertake communications outreach on the interlinkages between gender, human rights, climate change, renewable energy and disaster risk reduction (DRR) and amplify results and learnings among broader stakeholders.
- Create an environment to sustain and scale up further investment in renewable energy to promote women's economic empowerment, upholding the principle of leaving no one behind.
- Support possible policy interventions that stipulate budget or financing options for banks to scale up renewable energy investments.
- Support financial institutions' capacity to deploy capital through newly developed financial mechanisms to scale up investment into women's enterprises with the use of clean energy technologies.
- Support financial institutions in integrating ESG assessment procedures into their loan/investment approval process for clean energy loans to women's enterprises.
- Facilitate partnerships between clean energy technology providers and financial institutions.

PHASE II KEY TARGETS IN THE PHILIPPINES



USD 3M

of investment in gender-responsive renewable energy entrepreneurship will be mobilized.



12,000

women will benefit from climate-resilient livelihoods and services.



150

women's enterprises will build climate-resilient livelihoods using renewable energy.



125

women and marginalized individuals will have increased capacity and agency to exercise leadership in decision-making processes.



2

policies that are gender-responsive and human rights-based will be implemented and monitored.



INTERGOVERNMENTAL DECISIONS

will increase commitments to gender equality.

Outcome 2: Women in all their diversity and other marginalized groups are represented as key environmental actors in climate and DRR decision-making.

Activities:

- Support CSOs, especially women-led organizations, prioritizing gender-responsive climate actions focusing on climate change, renewable energy, DRR, human rights and its nexus with violence against women, including convening dialogues to amplify their voice in the key climate and disaster risk management-related platforms and processes.
- Design public awareness campaigns to address perceptions and attitudes on women's roles in renewable energy and as environmental actors, and limited representation of women leadership in climate change and DRR.
- Support emerging leaders, with a focus on women and marginalized groups, to engage in decision-making spaces at global, regional and national levels.

Outcome 3: Women and other marginalized groups in Asia-Pacific engage in climate-resilient livelihoods.

Activities:

- Initiate dialogues and collaboration on gender-responsive climate-resilient livelihoods using low-carbon technology.
- Facilitate women's access to resources, including finance and climate-resilient technologies, and strengthen their capacity to establish and run renewable energy-based enterprises.
- Strengthen the capacities of women entrepreneurs and women's enterprises from marginalized groups to establish and run business incubation programmes for climate-resilient livelihoods.
- Bring together stakeholders in clean energy technologies, such as NGOs, technology providers and financial institutions, and establish partnerships with women and marginalized groups.
- Support women and marginalized groups through technical assistance to improve skills in using clean energy technologies and increase awareness and access to financial services/products for clean energy technologies, especially targeted at women's and marginalized groups.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Climate Change Commission (CCC)
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
- Office of the Civil Defense
- Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)
- Microfinance Council of the Philippines
- Financial service providers such as microfinance institutions (MFIs) and banks
- Diverse civil society organizations working on gender and climate change

UN Women and UNEP welcome partnerships with key stakeholders to promote gender-responsive climate action through the EmPower Programme. Please reach out to the respective focal points below for more information on how you can get involved.

Visit www.empowerforclimate.org to learn more.



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